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The Orthodox Herald

Celebrating our 42nd year

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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

He is known throughout the world; he is alleged to be omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (all-powerful), omnipresent (he can be everywhere at the same time). He is said to know all our needs and gives us the gifts we need and want. He knows when we have been bad; he rewards good and punishes evil. He has many helpers.

God and His holy angels? No!

Children sing a song each Christmas about him.

"You better watch out, you better not cry; Better not pout, I'm telling you why – Santa Claus is coming to town!"

Of course! It's Santa Claus – that fictional being that has become the god of Christmas to many children.

The story of Santa Claus is myth – it is a fairy tale. Let it stay there. When parents let their children believe in Santa Claus, the simple faith of the young child accepts this deception. The child accepts by faith that Santa can see him through walls. Santa can see and know a child's behavior and rewards the child based on that behavior. Even though the parent knows this is a myth, the mythical becomes real for the child who believes.

As time goes on and the child no longer believes in Santa Claus, how does he cope with being taught about God the Creator who sees all, knows all, is everywhere present, and knows everything the child does? This God also has rewards and punishments. How strikingly parallel is this description of God to the nature of Santa Claus!

As the child discovers the deception his parents played on him regarding Santa Claus, will he not devaluate his parents' teaching about the true God? It can be noted that a lot of people in our culture today sadly have this "Santa Claus" understanding of God. They believe in God – but what God? A God who will not keep them out of heaven

(Continued on Page 45, Col. 1)



Спасская Башня
Московского Кремля

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

ДЕКАБРЬ

DECEMBER

SPASSKY TOWER
MOSCOW KREMLIN

The Kremlin walls in Moscow as seen today were built starting in 1491. (One year before Columbus discovered America.) Of interest is that three architects from Italy, one from Bologna, and two from Milan traveled to Moscow to work with Russian counterparts to design and build the walls, which are about two miles long. The walls vary from twelve to sixteen feet in thickness, which makes it possible for them to be interspersed with passages and storage rooms. This wall was designed with four openings or entrances. Some time later twenty towers were built on the walls. The most famous of these is the Spassky Tower, which was built over the entrance which fronts Red Square and is near St. Basil's Cathedral.

The Spassky entrance was always reserved for official vehicles. This tower,

(Continued on Page 45, Col. 1)

ST. NICHOLAS

During this period of Advent, we celebrate the feasts of some well-known saints. Among them are St. Andrew the Apostle, St. Ambrose the bishop of Milan, and St. John of Damascus, the great Syrian doctor of the church. The Syrian Orthodox Youth Organization (SOYO) recently changed their name to St. John of Damascus.

But one could say that none of the saints in Advent holds as high a place in popular devotion as does St. Nicholas. The church also surrounds his feast on December 6/19 with special solemnity.

There was little written about him in his lifetime and the incidents in his life for which he is well known are not to be found in written history but in tradition. However, this tradition, this veneration, have a spiritual meaning.

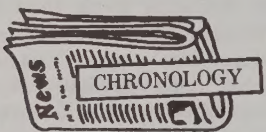
One of the hymns from the service of the saint shows precisely where the worth of St. Nicholas lies: "Thy practical virtues, O Father clothed by God, have made the beauty of thy priestly robes shine with yet greater splendor." These lines say it all and put it perfectly. He is the ideal kind of clergy who is actively involved in the secular world, doing good as well as being involved in the spiritual world. He wears "priestly robes" but on him, these shine with yet greater splendor than on many others because he combined them with "practical virtues."

The legends attached to the name of St. Nicholas always represent him as engaged in bringing help to some urgent case of human distress. As the chants of the service repeat: "Called upon from all sides, you did hasten to help those who sought your protection ... appearing to them in faith by day and night, saving them in their destitution and their trials... Who seeing your infinite compassion would not marvel at your patience and at your joyous mercy towards the poor and your compassion toward the afflicted?"

Today, crowds of Orthodox still willing-

(Continued on Page 45, Col. 3)

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DECEMBER

Let's remember Pearl Harbor Dec. 7.

AN EASTERN CHRISTIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION was formed in Canada. It is a non-denominational scholarly society which was formed to study all aspects of theology, liturgy, spirituality, canonical tradition or history and present state of the Eastern Churches, whether Orthodox, Eastern Catholic or Oriental Orthodox. For info write: Dr. Andrie Krawchuk, 223 Main St., Ottawa, ON K1S 1C4, Canada, or call 613-236-1393.

BICENTENNIAL icons, crystal pieces, pins, recordings, etc. can be purchased from Orthodox Christian Publication Center, P.O. Box 588, Wayne, NJ 07474-0588 or call 201-694-5782 for an order list and descriptions.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL will host an exhibit of 250 articles from museums in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia from January 11 to May 1995 in the Florida International Museum between 1st Ave., N and 2nd St., N. The exhibit "Treasures of the Czars" includes icons, chalices, Faberge Easter eggs, paintings and items not shown for many years. Call 800-777-9882 for info.

BORIS is the monastic name of Constantine the son of the exiled Bulgarian Tzar Simeon II. He chose Rila Monastery in Bulgaria.

THE "GREEN CARD OR VISA LOTTERY" for one of the 55,000 visas to the U.S. will be held from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, 1995. European applications must be mailed to DV-1 Program, National Visa Center, Portsmouth, NH 00212. For complete details call CRA 202-835-0060.

A PUBLICATION LIST of books and other information on the Carpatho-Russian area is available from Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center, Box 131-B, Orwell, VT 05760.

ICONS can be restored, repaired or appraised by the insured Paintings and Icons Company, 730 Fifth Ave., 9th floor, New York, NY 10019. Call 212-333-8638 or 717-698-5445. Ask for Tad Sviderskis.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS ON ORTHODOXY FOR STUDENTS by Gayle Woloschak was written for 12-18-year-olds. It consists of questions on various aspects of the Orthodox Church. We tried the questions on an adult religious education group and found it a wonderful aid. For info write: Light and Life Co., 4818 Park Glen Rd., Minneapolis, MN 55416.

NEWS FROM WOMEN'S MONASTERIES: The first Serbian monastery in the U.S. was consecrated by Patriarch Pavle. It is located at 32787 Early Rd., New Carlisle (near South Bend), Indiana. The SS. Mary and Martha Monastery (OCA) has relocated to Columbia, S.C. It will have liturgical relationship with Holy Apostles Orthodox Church, 931 N. Lucas St., West Columbia, S.C. 29169. Phone 803-781-6296. Orthodox Women in Healing held a four-day retreat in May in Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, PA. For info on this organization call Pani Kathy Pehanich at 516-541-8977.

BULLETIN COVERS for Orthodox Churches are available from Go Forth, P.O. Box 35, 2 Lakeshore Blvd., Grand Isle, VT 05458-0035 or call (802) 372-4361. Either calendar.

RUSSIAN GIFT OF LIFE, P.O. Box 403, Sea Cliff, NY 11579 brings children from the former Soviet Union to America for heart surgery. Volunteers and donated facilities enable most of the donations to be used for the $5,000 needed for each child to have the surgery. In four years, 150 children have been saved.

BEAUTY WILL SAVE THE WORLD by Fotos Lambrinos is a 55 minute video about Orthodoxy in Russia filmed in religious centers and in Kiev, Moscow and St. Petersburg. It has exclusive footage of the anti-clerical Stalin era, the demolition of ancient churches and a glorious record of mosaics, frescoes and icons. Send $39.95 to GOTelecom, 59 Schermerhorn St., Brooklyn, NY 11201 or call 800-888-6835.

GROUND HAS BEEN BROKEN for the chapel at St. Michael's Skete, P.O. Box 38, Canones, NM 87516. The design has been inspired by Spanish-Colonial Southwestern as well as Greek ecclesiastical architecture.

INSIGHTS

We pulled off the interstate and drove along a little traveled road that meandered through the countryside. It was calm, clear and lovely. There were fine houses, poorer houses, and farms interspersed with wooded areas. Then there were the churches. Some appeared well kept. Others which had been just as lovingly and solidly built gave evidence of neglect. We felt that the forceful faith of those who had once worshipped here had been diminished.

Noticing this we began to discuss where our responsibility lie as individual Christians. We decided it was important to put aside all lukewarmness, all indifference. Our devotion needs to be warm, our consecration pure and undivided. We have to grow in our reverence for God and the worship of Him and in prayer express gratitude for the blessings that Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church have brought to us. This is not a choice, we are duty bound to uphold the Christian faith by our witness and service and to carefully follow Christ's commands.

With reluctance we pulled back onto the interstate, but the sights and insights have remained with us.

•What's the difference?

because they think they are basically "good" considering the circumstances of their life? A God who may warn of heaven or hell but who will accept all people in one way or another in the end? A God who does not teach repentance?

By teaching the true meaning of Christmas centered around the birthday of Jesus, parents will not only be giving the reason for Christmas, but they may use it to build the basis for the child's ability to trust in God in his later life – the basis of true faith in the true God.

•Spassy Tower

which was built in a Gothic style and is considered to be the most beautiful of the twenty towers. It had an icon of Christ the Saviour on it and so it was given the name Spassky or Saviour Tower. The frame for the icon can be seen right under the clock.

Another distinguishing feature of the Spassky Tower is the clock which was designed and placed there in 1625 under the supervision of an Englishman. In 1851 the chimes were added. They ring every quarter hour. For the past seventy years, the changing of the guards at Lenin's tomb took place at the ringing of the chimes. The guards come through the Spassky gateway.

The Prophecies

(In the Old Testament)

"But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times."

Micah 5:1

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

"For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:5

WINTER GRACE (14)

OLD FOLKS NEW TARGETS: We tend to think of cults as targeting young people, but in fact, such groups increasingly are targeting the elderly for their retirement investment and real estate assets.

As many as a million current cult members are over 50, and at least five such people were among those who perished in the Branch Davidian compound fire, according to a report in Modern Maturity. It's easy and common for cult members to recruit in nursing homes and hospitals because authorities are just "happy to have someone visit," one former cult member tells the magazine.

How does this affect Orthodox? In years gone by every parish had a "Sunshine Committee." The purpose of this committee was to send cards to the ill, help those in need and visit the sick, homebound and elderly. Unfortunately, these committees are now just a memory and any visitation that is made is said to be "the priest's job." This is very short sighted.

Coordination between the priest and a few lay people is necessary, especially in this day when "same day surgery" is common and people are sent home in a weakened condition. Also, more Orthodox are either in nursing homes or spend days alone. It is for a parish group to organize at least weekly calls. This ensures that regular visits are made to the aged, frail and ill. This is important even for those that are well taken care of by their families. As one aged person said about the fact that no one from the parish visited him: "I was active in my parish and yet no one comes to visit me to talk and pray with me."

Too many elderly Orthodox are being lost to their parish and to the Church not necessarily to cults but to other religious groups because their parish has forgotten them. Parishes forget that they should be grateful for the past efforts of their dear elderly brothers and sisters. It was they who perhaps laid the foundation for the parish. Where would these parishes be without their past zealous activity and, perhaps, current financial support?

•St. Nicholas

ly seek shelter under the patronage of St. Nicholas, who is said to be a healer of the sick, the liberator of captives, the treasurer of the poor, consoler of the afflicted, and guide to travelers. He is a living symbol of the Saviour's mercy and love toward mankind. For, in the final analysis, it is Jesus Himself, that the popular devotion accorded to St. Nicholas reaches.

May this feast in remembrance of St. Nicholas bring us a message of "practical Christianity" and of giving us hope in divine goodness.

PRESS FUND

We appreciate your help in enabling us to keep printing. Our costs go up with postage due for another boost in January for Second Class mail. But with God's help and your contributions, we keep going. A Spasebo/Thank you! **Joseph and Diane Holobinko,** Elaine Papp, Pauline Dorosh, Irene Allen, Frank Grivna, Deacon John Oleynik, Helen Cudlic, Anna Jeromsky, Mary Kocharmuk, Edward Jackinsky, Margaret Burke, Anonymous (3), Anna Habijanac, Helena Pedersen, Anna Mizeski, Stella Kadingo, Daniel Baysa, Sophia Coggins, **Lillian Soroka,** Mike Bakaysa, Ethel Watlock, Anna Wentovich, Velma Bova, Helen S. Allen. On glorious occasion of birth of a son Mark William to Roger and Alexxandra Pena – many years! For health of Paul and Doris Rusinko. **For health of Matushka Nina Stroyen.** Mindora Burkhardt in memory of her husband Warren. Pauline Levitsky in memory of her sisters Matushka Shevchuk and Matushka Cheselka. Evelyn Zaleckis in memory of her parents. Anna Rusinko in memory of her sisters Mary Tullai, Anastasia Peocyczyn, Pauline Valasek and brother John Petronchek. Eugene Slutyak in memory of her mother Helen (who looked forward to reading her **Herald** each month). Michael Pirich, Jr. and Michael and Diane Pirich in memory of Maria Krell (devout member of Presentation Church in Hollywood, FL), who died on October 2. Ted Cramer in memory of Russell Koveal, who died in August. George Fritch in memory of niece Veronica McCleery and brother-in-law David Minnick. Roy Snyder in memory of his mother Anne. **Mary Ann Carmack** in memory of departed military comrades who have gone to their eternal sleep on land, sea, and foreign lands and for **Ted** who went to his eternal rest November 8, 1974.

BETROTHAL

During December we often hear the word **betrothal,** especially in reference to the Mother of God. During the rest of the year we may hear it as it concerns someone getting married in our Orthodox Church. According to the dictionary, **betrothal** means a mutual contract for a future marriage.

In Matthew 1:18-25 we read about the betrothal of Joseph and Mary. What did betrothal mean?

Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Betrothal lasted for a year. It was as binding as marriage and could only be dissolved by divorce. During the betrothal the two were regarded as man and wife, but they remained with their families and did not have any "relations" during this time. When news of Mary's pregnancy was told to Joseph, he was perplexed. And rightly so, because he did not understand this supernatural miracle.

He had two courses of action. He could grant her a bill of divorcement or he could summon her before the courts and have her condemned. If this happened she might have been condemned to death by stoning. A bill of divorcement was the correct course under Jewish law as betrothal was almost as sacred and binding as that of marriage.

Being a righteous man, he decided to take a more compassionate course which was the one which was best for her. This is commendable in any age.

Some people in our age equate engagement with betrothal, but an engagement is not a legal action. Those who read advice columns in the daily newspapers where questions are asked concerning the return of engagement rings and shower gifts if a marriage is cancelled can understand the difference.

PRAY FOR THEM

On our prayer list, among others, we have the names of clergy who died in December in past years and who were supportive of **The Orthodox Herald.** These include Archbishops Kiprian (Borisevich) and Amvrossy (Merejko), and Fathers Basil Amatoff, Basil Horsky, Lev Silkin, John Chepeleff, Coraliolan Issacu, Erast Wolkodoff, Damian Krehel and Stephen Burdikoff. **God grant them blessed repose!**

LITANY OF CATECHUMENS

There are contradictory messages being given on new members. On the one hand we see articles and slogans bearing the words: harvest, gathering, mission planting which would imply getting the word concerning the Orthodox faith out to others; while, on the other hand, we are not encouraged to pay for them.

You may ask how is this?

Thousands of dollars are being spent to fund programs concerning growth in the Orthodox Church while at the same time the Litany or Ektenia of the Catechumens is omitted during the Divine Liturgy.

Now, more than at many times in history, it is necessary for us to include this litany. Here in the United States we are trying to build the Church during the time of difficult transition while in Eastern Europe (and we are a part of a world-wide church) so many people want to learn about the God which they have not heard about. We pray for them too. Our prayers extend beyond our parish. Prayers of the litany must be continued in our parish even if we do not have any catechumens for our prayers extend beyond our church walls.

Let us examine this litany of the Catechumens. Let's think of it as prayer for those who want to know about God as taught in the Holy Orthodox Church. It doesn't mean some pagan in some far off country. It could be someone in your own family or a neighbor or co-worker.

Take out your prayer book and look at the litany. It is the second set of prayers following the reading of the Gospel. In that litany it commands us: "You faithful, pray to the Lord for the Catechumens. We are also told to pray that they may be instructed in the Word of Truth, that the Gospel of righteousness is revealed to them, that they be united to His Holy Church and that God save them, show mercy to them and keep them and that they together **with us** may glorify His Name.

If we are sincere about Church growth – Let's not give up praying for it!

ALASKA FUND

Helping to send copies to Alaska are: Ethel Watlock, Natalie Sidel, George and Cynthia Benishen, Edward Jackinsky, Anne Habijanac, **Velma Bove**, Helen S. Allen, Pauline Levitsky Elaine Papp, Anonymous (2), Anita Anderson in memory of her father John Sherby.

Dabs of Thoughts

The difference between knowledge and faith is that knowledge has for its object things visible and comprehensible; while faith has things which are invisible and incomprehensible. Knowledge is founded on experience, on examination of its object; but faith on belief of testimony to the truth. Knowledge belongs properly to the intellect, although it may also act on the heart; faith belongs principally to the heart, although it is imparted through the intellect.

We give and receive gifts at Christmastime, but what a priceless Gift from God has been so freely given to us, and to all who will accept it! When we consider the Gift of His only begotten Son, and the selfless love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, Lord, and coming King we are filled with gratitude, thanksgiving and praise.

You don't have to be in prison to be imprisoned by something in your life. "People often imprison themselves. They limit themselves from dreaming and hoping."

The Saviour commanded us to enter into our inner room and there to pray to God the Father in secret. According to St. Demetrius of Rostov, the inner room means the heart. Consequently, the commandment of the Lord obliges us to pray mentally in our heart to God.

We are hearing much about family values. This cannot be addressed in the political arena alone. There is an underlying spiritual malaise that attacks family life at its very Godly foundation – the pre-eminence of the self and its needs has made the sacrifice involved in marriage and child-rearing an unbearable price to pay for many contemporary men and women.

The text for Handel's Messiah was written by Charles Jennens. "He constructed a musical text that took Christians on a journey through the very core of their faith: the birth, rejection, suffering, death, resurrection and return of their Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The power of the text lay in the employment of a technique of presenting Old Testament prophecies followed by New Testament fulfillments. With this device, Jennens, crafted a simple, clear and compelling message."

In many of the services prior to the Nativity the prophecies and their fulfillment are stressed.



EDITORS' NOTES

In the next few months you may notice some change concerning your subscription. We have now put the individual addresses into a computer and find that it would be more expedient to bill you a month before your subscription expires instead of at the month. You will still receive your full year's worth of 12 copies.

At the present time we sent out 5,175 copies of The Orthodox Herald. Some of these go to individual subscribers, the others go in bulk to individuals or churches as part of the Packet Plan. This number has been consistent for the last two years. We would like to increase our subscription list. Won't you help by either subscribing for someone else or get copies in bulk to pass out to your friends when you make perohi, attend Bible class or the coffee after Divine Liturgy. Make a Christmas gift of lasting value. Ask us for details.

We go to a library which has a Happy Holiday sign taped to the front desk. The librarian changes the name and symbol of the holiday as needed to keep it current. In October, we were greeted with a Halloween scene. Come December, the pumpkin will give way to a snowman or some other scene representing Christmas which is politically correct. No nativity scene here. This display and wish for a Happy Holiday led us to note how many cards and displays now read Happy Holiday instead of Merry Christmas. This certainly points to future celebrations of Christmas drastically different from what we knew or know today. The implication in all this is that Christmas is just a cultural occasion. It denigrates what it is for the Christian – the celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ, a singular happening unequaled in all of mankind's history. To equate it with a myriad of other holidays and celebrations which may occupy our minds is to reduce its significance to just another event in history. "Christ is Born," "Glorify Him." Few words, but such meaning and significance! Use them. CHRISTOS RAZDAETSYA! SLAVITE EHO!

Fr. and Matushka Stroyen

Co-editors: 1952-1994

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Mareea,

Spasebo, spasebo zhe veh poslalee me vash picture. Yah tak plakala kolee yah looking nah vash lubezneh face. You look like moya mama, vasha setrah, God bless her soul. Veh mayeteh takee same smiling eyes. Yah tak study toth picture. Yah vidyou zhe veh mayete novee fence. Nice.

Yah taka sorry zeh yah neh piesalla van uzeh takee long time noh yah mala takee trouble z me husbandom. Teper zhe ohn retired, ohn nech neh robee eh don't want to go anywhere. Ohn just sitting around doin nothing. A yah, tper zhe chula za women's lib, yah want to do things. Yah neh dumam zhe Pan Boh nas putting on earth to sit around doing nothing.

Yah taka tired just sitting around zhe kolee me next door neighbor asked me to go nah day trip doh New Yorku yah signed up nah trip. Yah mala takee nice time. Yah peeshla nah lunch ee show nah Broadvay. Kolee yah peshla domu me staree takee mad zhe yah one hodenuy late. Next few days ohn walking around house yak malee boice looking takee stratchene. No yah make up my mind, yah neh weakening. Kolee, about a month later, me neighbor asked me to sign nah bus do Atlantic City, Yah signed. Yah treid to interest me husband – noh ohn kazhe zhe ohn don't believe in gambling. Yah telling him zhe voda taka nice, ee much other things to see noh nech zhe yah saying makes a difference – ohn neh want to move and that's it. To u Amerikee yest name nah takoho – "Couch potato."

Anyway, yah peeshla ee mala takee good time. Kolee yah preshla domu, ohn takee smurgatee. Noh yah close me eyes to it. Teper, yah signed up for trip doh Floridee. Toh budah pyat day trip. Yah nech yemu nah poveela. Yah dusted off me suitcase, eeh yah slowly putting in shatyah zhe necessary. Yah squirreled away the suitcase pod postelu where ohn neh find it. Noh yah znam zhe ya can't leave him like that. Yah stuffing me freezer with dinners. Staree mozhe klastee u microwave ee matee good meals while I'm gone. No yah neh hotchu making him too comfortable. Who knows mozeh next time ohn will come instead of sitting at doma sam.

Budte zdrovee
Getting around,
Hanya

CHUCKLE

She had begged her husband for months to have his picture taken. At last he made the appointment with the photographer. But when the proofs arrived, his wife exclaimed in horror, "Oh! There's a button missing on your coat!" Thank heaven," he said, "you've noticed at last."

PEER PRESSURE

In John 12:46 we read: I have come as a Light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not remain in darkness."

This teaching of Jesus can apply to many situations, but just for now, consider it in relation to peer pressure. "Everybody's doing it," we hear, and "it" can be anything from cheating in school, to cheating on taxes; from skipping Divine Liturgy on Sunday and shirking family responsibilities to taking too much alcohol or drugs.

Perhaps, it's time to remember that no matter how old we are we are not at the mercy of our peers, that we have our own minds and wills with which to make our own decisions.

We have Jesus as our light and strength to help us avoid being influenced by the false values of others.

How often do you think of yourself? Are you easily influenced by other people's choices?

ALWAYS HELPFUL

When you lose at every turning, and your faith melts fast away
do not give up, for you will find new strength if you will pray
In a prayer there is contentment and a tender peace of mind
soothing balm from heaven needed by mankind.
Those who stumble by the way are lifted up through prayer
conversation with the Lord will ease the greatest care.
From the beginning we are taught what contrite prayer can do
and so we use its power as onward we pursue.
Yes, much can be accomplished to make a happy life
those who pray are equal to all worldly strife.



Most countries in northern Europe like to combine dried fruit with meat, especially in holiday meals. A good example of this is this recipe for Mock Duck. Try it for your Christmas buffet table.

Mock Duck

2 pork tenderloins, equal size
2 apples, chopped fine
5 cooked prunes, chopped fine
salt and pepper
2 Tbls. butter, cut into small pieces
1 cup cream
1 cup sour cream

Cut tenderloin lengthwise but do not cut all the way through. Open and pound flat. Place apples and prunes on one-half of meat. Salt and pepper. Add butter bits. Cover mixture with other half of meat. Skewer edges together. Brown in shortening. Add cream and sour cream. Lower heat. Cook slowly for about 1 hour or until tender. Slice meat thinly on large platter. Pour sauce from pan over. May decorate with black cherries and orange slices if desired. Looks festive and tastes delicious.

MISSION FUND

We are getting requests from many Orthodox from the former USSR. Some copies go to them sponsored by this fund. Helping are Anna Wentovich, Velma Bova, Ms. M. Oseniak, Edward Jackinsky, Anne Habijanac, Pauline Levitsky, Elaine Papp, Anonymous (3), Ethel Watlock, **Olga Peck.**

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When sending in a change of address, please be sure to include the address label from a copy or the code numbers which are printed above your name.



December

1	Luke	11:47-12:1
2		12:2-12
3		9:1-6
4		**8:41-56 - Sunday**
5		12:13-15, 22-31
6		12:42-48
7		21:12-19
8		13:1-9
9		13:31-35
10		9:37-43
11		**10:25-37 - Sunday**
12		14:12-15
13	John	1:35-51
14	Luke	15:1-10
15		16:1-9
16		16:15-18, 17:1-4
17	Mark	5:24-34
18	**Luke**	**12:16-21 - Sunday**
19		6:17-23
20		20:27-44
21		18:15-17, 26-30
22		18:31-34
23		19:12-28
24		10:19-21
25		**13:10-17 - Sunday**
26		19:37-44
27		19:45-48
28	Mark	2:23-3:2
29		20:9-18
30		20:19-26
31	Luke	12:32-40

BIBLE STUDY

The very sight or sound of some words commands immediate attention.

One example of this is the clear, concise words **"STOP-LOOK-LISTEN"** which were used on many posters years ago to warn children about crossing the many railroad tracks that passed through towns. To this day these words ring in our ears as we recall them. Words are meant to serve a purpose. Jesus drew heavily upon certain words in order to get our attention. Blessed is that person who can still hear ringing in his ears the commanding words of Jesus. To pay attention to them can mean the difference between life and death as did the words **"STOP-LOOK-LISTEN."**

Consider the word "BEHOLD" in the reading from Thursday the 22nd from St. Luke 18:21: "Then he took unto him, the twelve, and said unto them, **Behold,** we go up to Jerusalem."

"Behold" could mean the Son of God saying to us: "Attention!" God does try to get our attention, but we have a way of ignoring Him and His actions. We do this at great peril as we can rush headlong into destruction as we travel through life. God has a way of calling to us: "Pay attention to Me – to My way."

Another way some Biblical scholars translate the word **"behold"** is "listen." Here it also represents authority, God's voice commands respect. We are often so busy with our own way of handling matters, framing resolutions, drafting statements, arguing with one another, blaming one another, that it is only as God speaks in commanding tones that we listen with some measure of either respect or helplessness.

In the reading it appeared to be Jesus' attempt to get the twelve to believe. It was to encourage their trust.

We would do well to see it in this light, especially as we consider this verse in its setting. Jesus sought their attention, spoke to them authoritatively as they listened, But as He told the whole story, they did not understand either what He was telling them or what it all meant.

He would give them little if any choice. They would be Jerusalem-bound whether they understood what was ahead or not. Yet, they could afford to go with Him since He was to be trusted – to be believed.

They ran into trouble, terrible trouble in Jerusalem as soon as they forgot that He was to be believed. And so do we. That's why we need to listen and give Him attention as never before.

As in the Bible so in the Divine Liturgy, certain words are used to get our attention at certain parts. These words are so plain – **"Wisdom-Attention"** and are said to get our attention – to warn us that something important is about to be read or done. Watch for them when you attend the Divine Liturgy the next time.

